

16-30 NOVEMBER, 2024

# Down To Earth

POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Subscriber copy, not for resale

₹80.00



## LITTLE WINS

The Convention on Biological Diversity has created a voluntary fund to compensate communities for using digitised data of their genetic resources. Will it help?



**CARBON CREDIT**  
A multi-million dollar fraud hits carbon offset market

P16

**ORIGINS OF INDIAN ENVIRONMENTALISM**  
Ramachandra Guha on his latest book

P54



# DownToEarth

Founded in 1992 to arm you with knowledge critical to shaping a better world

**FOUNDER EDITOR** Anil Agarwal

**EDITOR** Sunita Narain

**MANAGING EDITOR** Richard Mahapatra

**CHIEF COPY EDITOR** Snigdha Das

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS** Aditya Misra, Rajit Sengupta

**SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Ajit Bajaj

**SUPPLEMENT EDITOR** Souparno Banerjee

**CHIEF CARTOONIST** Sorit Gupta

**REPORTING TEAM** Shagun, Akshit Sangomla, Pulaha Roy, Rohini Krishnamurthy, Himanshu N

**SENIOR SUB EDITOR** Dakshiani Palicha

**WEB EDITORS** Rajat Ghai, Preetha Banerjee, Nandita Banerji, Pratyaksh Srivastava

**DESIGN TEAM** Chaitanya Chandan (Art Editor), Ritika Bohra (Assistant Art Editor), Tarun Sehgal (Senior Designer), Yogendra Anand (Illustrator), Vineel Tripathi (Graphic Designer), Shri Krishan

**PHOTO EDITOR** Vikas Choudhary

**PRODUCTION** Rakesh Shrivastava, Gundhar Das

**TECH SUPPORT** Rajendra Rawat, Jaidev Sharma

**MULTIMEDIA** Joel Michael, Sunny Gautam, Midhun Vijayan, Shreya KA, Prabhat Kumar, Dhruval Parekh

**INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT** Kiran Pandey, Susan Chacko, Madhumita Paul, Sheeja Nair, Lalit Maurya, Dayanidhi Mishra

**CONSULTING EDITORS** Anumita Roychowdhury, Vibha Varshney

**Vol 33, No 13; Total No of Pages: 60**

Editorial, subscriptions and advertisements:  
Society for Environmental Communications,  
41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062,

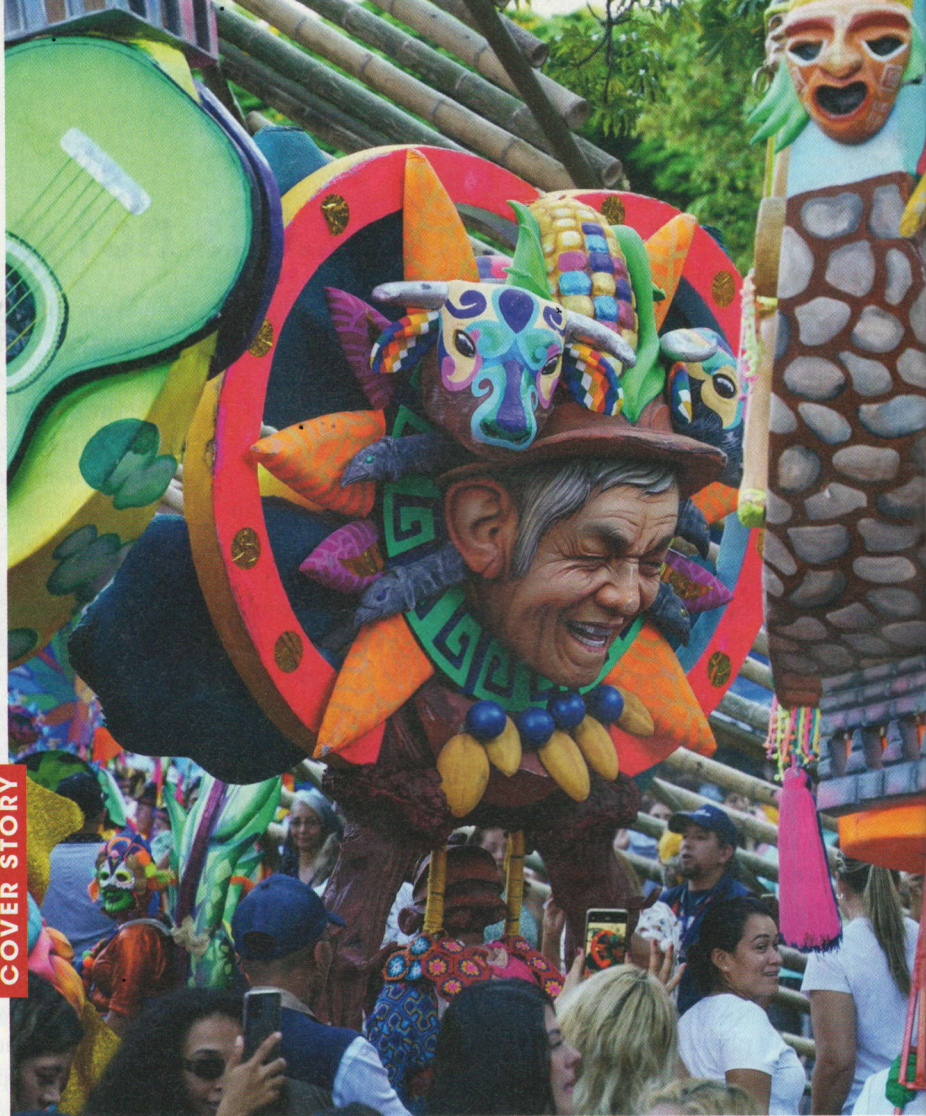
Phone: 91-11-40616000, 29955124,  
29956110, 29956394, 29956399 | Fax: 91-11-29955879.  
Email: editor@downtoearth.org.in

© 2024 Society for Environmental Communications.  
All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction  
in any manner is prohibited. Printed and published by  
Richard Mahapatra on behalf of Society for Environmental  
Communications. Printed at International Print-o-Pac  
Limited, B-204, 205, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I,  
New Delhi-110020, India, and published at  
41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062.

To subscribe, sms 'dte Subscribe' to 56070  
or visit [www.downtoearth.org.in/subsription](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/subsription)

**FOR ADVERTISEMENTS** Jyoti Ghosh  
jghosh@cseindia.org

**FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
K C R Raja, raja@cseindia.org



COVER STORY

# 32

In a historic decision, the UN Biodiversity Conference 2024 has decided to include indigenous people's voice in biodiversity conservation

# 12

**Digest**  
What Donald Trump's win means for global climate action

# 16

**Carbon Credit**  
A multi-million dollar fraud hits carbon offset industry

# 30

**Climate Goals**  
Rationing can be an emissions-reduction strategy



# 46

**Patently Absurd**  
Why women scientists are way behind in inventions

# 58

**Civil Lines**  
Brace for chronic poverty in a warming world



◀ Cover design: Ajit Bajaj | Cover photo: UN Biodiversity

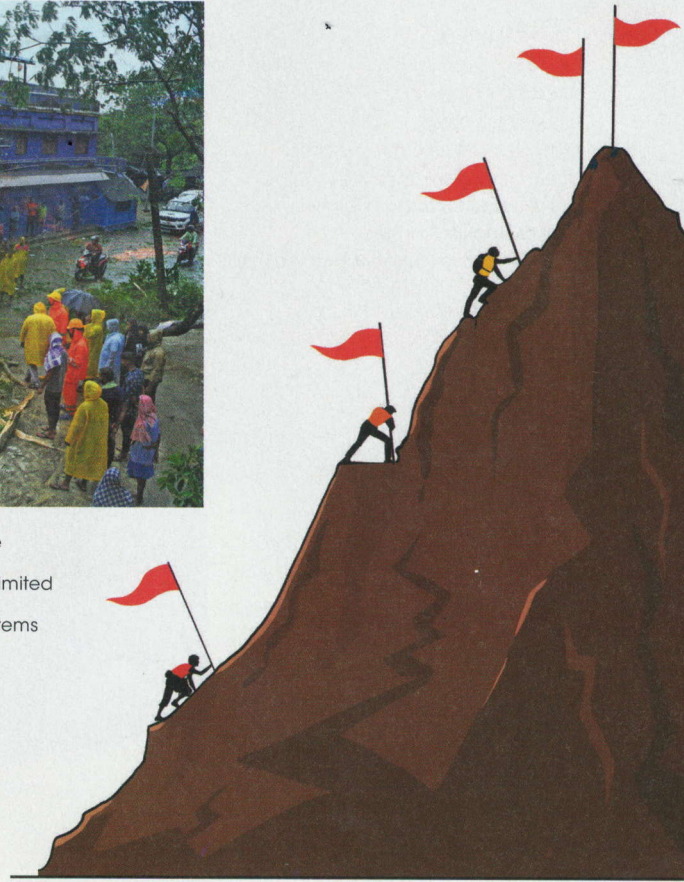
Down To Earth does not endorse the content of advertisements printed in the magazine. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.



# Contents



22 India's cyclone forecasts are hampered by limited and outdated monitoring systems



26 Nations must collectively commit to cut 42% of annual emissions by 2030 and 57% by 2035, says the UN's Emissions Gap Report 2024



50 A network of over 1,000 *jal sahelis* in Bundelkhand has managed to achieve great feats in water conservation



54 Ramachandra Guha on his latest book *Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism*